



Dear Citizens,

In just over four months as your Mayor, I have had an opportunity to share new achievements and the hope for a bright future for this wonderful city. However, the recent rash of gun violence is claiming too many lives, and terrorizing too many neighborhoods in Baltimore. The violence is unacceptable, and it must stop.

Overall, crime has decreased in Baltimore for the past three years, and it continues to decline this year. Since January, violent crime – including assaults– has also gone down significantly. The fact is that our city is getting safer each day, but I know that for many Baltimore residents it doesn't feel that way. And those residents don't feel safe because they have watched too many of their neighbors –including children – be seriously injured or killed in the senseless shootings that occur on our streets every day.

I am outraged that a small number of armed thugs can make so many citizens of this city feel unsafe in their own homes.

I am outraged that these predators are on our streets and that life means so little to them.

A few weeks ago, Commissioner Hamm and I stood together to announce a new strategy to address violent crime in our communities, and a plan to get illegal guns off our streets. I am working with the U.S. Attorney, the State's Attorney, the State Police and our own police department to focus on getting illegal guns out of the hands of these people who are terrorizing the citizens of this city.

These strategies are in their early stages, but we are making progress, and I know we can be successful.

We need the citizens of Baltimore to take their city back. It is us against them – the thugs against the citizens; artificial families called 'gangs' against real families, real neighborhoods and real communities. They will win if the community does not turn their outrage into action.

We have to work together to keep young people away from drugs and crime, and to get those already involved in illegal activity out of the game.

We have to work together to provide alternatives, and to demonstrate that there are ways to solve differences that do not end in the morgue and the prison.

Most of all, we have to stand together as a city and say “Enough is Enough!” We won’t tolerate this in our neighborhood any more. We won’t allow silence to help murderers escape justice.

The police are working hard to solve and prevent crimes, but they can’t do it alone. They can’t do it without information and help from people who want to see their neighborhoods get better. Commissioner Hamm has committed to helping his officers get better at understanding and responding to communities. The commissioner and his senior staff have met this week with all the district commanders, and they are working on solutions.

They have discussed moving some of our police cameras, some targeted overtime initiatives (using overtime to deploy additional units where they are needed), and they are committed to going after the flood of illegal guns. Perhaps most importantly, they are working to get officers out of their cars and into the community.

Today, I am asking leaders in every part of the city to truly become partners with me. I need them to respond to and help the police solve these crimes and get guns off the streets. It is time for community leaders, activists and residents to set the standard for acceptable behavior on our streets.

The violence we are seeing today has to stop. And it will stop when we all come together to stop it.

As always, I am interested in what you think about our plan to make our city a dynamic place to LIVE, EARN, PLAY and LEARN. Please [email me](#) your comments or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Sheila Dixon
Mayor
Baltimore

Volunteers Needed for Artscape!

July 20-22, 2007

Artscape, the largest arts festival in the mid-Atlantic region, is in need of volunteers like you to make the festival a success! Volunteers are needed in a wide variety of areas, including the Artist Market, Art Galleries, Family Art Park, Hospitality Areas, and many others.

As a thank you, all volunteers receive one free parking pass, one free t-shirt, refreshments, and access to indoor restrooms and air conditioning!

If you are interested in volunteering for Artscape, please email BOPAvolunteer@promotionandarts.com.

SoWeBo Arts & Music Festival

Sunday, May 27th from Noon to 8PM

SoWeBo Arts & Music Festival

Sunday, May 27, 2007
12:00 Noon – 8:00 p.m.

FREE Admission!

Rain or Shine

Surrounding the historic Hollins Market in Baltimore (1000 to 1200 Hollins St.) 15+ bands, 65+ Arts & Crafts and fine art vendors, Food, Black Cherry Puppet Theatre, Art Parade, Participatory Art for all ages, Child-Friendly event. Non-juried art exhibit and original Posters on view in the Sowebo Gallery at 1111 Hollins Street.

For more info, please visit: <http://www.soweboarts.org/festival.html>

Want to Quit Smoking?

Call for Free Nicotine Patches and Gum

Free nicotine patches and gum are available for people who want to quit smoking. If you are a Baltimore City resident and at least 18 years old, you may be eligible.

Call 1-800-QUIT-NOW.

Patches will be available for a limited time, so call now!

Please visit the [Baltimore City Health Department](#) for more information.

Baltimore Farmers' Market

Sundays Under the JFX

Baltimore Farmers' Market:

Everyone is invited to enjoy this one-of-a-kind shopping experience at economical prices. While strolling the market, guests can revel at the sight of the large quantity of the freshest fruits and vegetables, eggs, a variety of breads from Maryland area farmers, and delight in homemade treats. In addition, food vendors add spice to the market with cultural cuisine, popular pit beef sandwiches, pastries, cheese, and gourmet treats.

Sundays, May 6 - December 23, 2007
8am to sellout, approximately noon

Holliday and Saratoga streets underneath the Jones Falls Expressway

Activities for the Whole Family

Special Events All Around Baltimore

The Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks offers activities for city residents and guests - educational hikes and walks, sports leagues, youth and senior activities, and fun for the family.

Please visit [Rec & Parks' Events Calendar](#) for dates and times.



TV25: How Baltimore sees itself

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